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including a discussion of the early marriages, increasing extravagance and peculiar customs. One-half of the book is devoted to the problems of the youth. Pitiable indeed is the prospect for the newly-born babe. The child is taken through the elementary school with its handicaps and advantages and we see the physical and intellectual influences that continually play upon him. Again we see him out of school engaged in his various pastimes. Perhaps he enjoys a day's outing in the country—an experience of doubtful value according to the author. The picture of the boy at work, his lack of skill and the bitter problem of unemployment give much food for thought, but the sports and recreation enjoyed by the working boys offer some relief from this dismal scene. Morals and the religious life are better understood when we learn of the associations and traditions. Some noteworthy observations are made on the juvenile offender and a brief account is given of his disposition before the courts and his subsequent treatment.

The pathetic relation of the age of parents and size of family to the curves of prosperity and adversity and the serious outlook of the workingmen are briefly pictured as well as the grim consequences in blighted love and disrupted family relations. Many poor lose all hope and are precipitated into the lowest stratum of human wreckage.

Finally, no one can understand the problems of the poor, their habits, customs and extravagances without much personal contact with them. There is need of knowledge. Gained in this way it provokes sympathy and helpfulness. Without these qualities intelligent social action is not possible.

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**Pennington, A. Stuart.** *The Argentine Republic.* Pp. 352. Price, \$3.00.  
New York: F. A. Stokes Company, 1910.

Many books have been written about Argentine, but few have succeeded in giving as comprehensive a view of the country as is afforded in this volume. It is in effect a handbook of information on all important subjects, yet presented in readable form. The items covered include physical features, population, government, history, flora, fauna, geology, industries and products, literature, politics and the life in Argentine.

The history of the country is given more space than any other topic, covering about one-fourth of the book. Its discussion is taken up in four periods, that of the Adelantados, the colonial, the viceroys and the republic. These chapters, together with the one on population, give a good background for an understanding of the present development of the country as it has been influenced by physical features and resources.

The average reader is likely to feel that the discussion of flora and fauna is largely a waste of space, which might much better have been devoted to a more extensive discussion of Argentine resources, industrial and commercial possibilities. About three times as much space is devoted to the former topics, while many pages in both chapters on flora and fauna are devoted simply to a cataloguing of varieties. For example, few persons

will care to know that there are fourteen species of railbirds in Argentine, or will have use for the genus and species of the principal representatives of the group. This defect is the one serious criticism to be directed against the book.

One of the best chapters is the concluding survey of life in Argentine, where the author presents such items as the feelings of a newcomer, salaries, temptations, cost of living, customs and the like. In few words the contrast between European conditions and those in Argentine is clearly drawn, and suggests for the prospective visitor various ways in which unpleasant situations may be avoided.

Extracts from the constitution, especially regarding foreign trade; a glossary of native idioms, many of which are met in the text, and a good map of the country are useful additions to the volume.

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**Persons, C. E., Parton, Mabel, and Moses, Mabelle.** *Labor Laws and Their Enforcement.* Pp. xxii, 419. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911.

The first chapter of this painstaking volume, a work concerned mainly with Massachusetts, gives a history of factory legislation in that state from 1825 to 1874,—at which point Miss Sarah Whittelsey's earlier work, not included in the volume, takes up the narrative and carries it to 1900. As the net result of this fifty-year period, an approximate ten hour work-day and sixty hour work-week were secured for women and children, and the beginning was made of the use of a school attendance certificate as a prerequisite for the employment of children under fourteen. This study by Mr. Persons is exhaustive and interesting, but is allowed disproportionate space—nearly one-third.

The next chapter describes the still unregulated conditions in women's work, and is based on the personal experience of the writers as employees in various manufactories and restaurants. Women workers were found exposed to many sources of ill health: dust, gases, wet floors, defective sanitation, irregular hours, night work. Practical remedies for these dangers are suggested.

Chapters III and IV point out the weaknesses in the administration of Massachusetts labor statutes. Summarized, these defects are: inadequate force of inspectors, with faulty system of records and reports; responsibility as to inspection divided between district police and state board of health; few prosecutions and small fines. However, three advance steps are recorded for the year 1910: first, protection of newsboys and other street traders; second, physical examination and certification of every child who seeks employment; third, exclusion of minors from occupations declared dangerous by the state board of health. A helpful chart gives a comparative study of enforcement legislation throughout the United States.

Chapter V is a digest of recent labor legislation in Massachusetts (1902-